

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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P&C; USIA FOR IEE

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SCUL UR
SUBJ: EXCHANGES: SOVIET PAG'S TO U.S.

REF: MOSCOW 2066

1. MINCULT CHIEF, MAIN ADMINISTRATION FOR EXTERNAL
RELATIONS, DYUZHEV, CALLED IN PRESS AND CULTURAL COUNSELOR
TO DISCUSS UPCOMING US TOURS BY BOLSHOI BALLET AND OPERA.
DYUZHEV ASKED DEPARTMENT BE INFORMED THAT ALL NEGOTIATIONS
COMPLETED. PRESS CONFERENCES PLANNED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN
WASHINGTON, NEW YORK AND MOSCOW MARCH 4.

2. BALLET TROUPE OF 144 MEMBERS WILL TOUR NUMBER OF
US CITIES FROM 22 APRIL UNTIL 20 JULY, 1975 (SEE REFTEL).
BOLSHOI OPERA WITH 415 MEMBERS WILL BE IN US (NEW YORK
METROPOLITAN OPERA AND WASHINGTON KENNEDY CENTER) FROM
25 JUNE UNTIL 2 AUGUST, 1975.

3. DYUZHEV STRESSED THE UNPRECEDENTED NATURE OF THE
TOUR. IT IS FIRST TIME BOTH OPERA AND BALLET OF BOLSHOI
THEATER WILL TOUR ABROAD. DYUZHEV REFERRED TO EARLIER
PLANS FOR JOINT TOUR (1970) WHICH SOVIETS CANCELLED BECAUSE
THEY FELT INTERNAL SECURITY (I.E. AGAINST ACTIONS BY
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JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE) COLD NOT RPT NOT BE GUARANTEED

BY U.S. SIDE. DYUZHEV ASKED P&C COUNSELOR TRANSMIT
MINCULT'S VERY GREAT INTEREST IN THIS TOUR, THE IMPORTANCE
SOVIETS ATTACH TO THESE CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND ROLE OF
TOUR IN IMPROVING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US
AND USSR. SPECIFICALLY, HE ASKED THAT DEPARTMENT TAKE ALL
MEASURES TO INSURE BOLSHOI TOUR TAKE PLACE IN ATMOSPHERE
CONDUCIVE TO SUCCESSFUL CULTURAL EXCHANGES, SIMILAR TO RECEPTION OF
US GROUPS HERE.

4. P&C COUNSELOR ASSURED DYUZHEV THAT US WOULD TAKE
APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENFORCE US LAWS. BELIEVE FURTHER
RESPONSE FROM DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC TO BOLSHOI TOUR WOULD
BE APPROPRIATE.

STOESSEL

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